

# Island Times



## Environmental Investigation and Cleanup News Naval Station Treasure Island

Fall 2001

This is the second in a series of quarterly newsletters developed to keep you informed about the Department of the Navy's (Navy) environmental activities on Treasure Island (TI) and Yerba Buena Island (YBI).

Environmental investigations and cleanup began on TI and YBI in the mid-1980s and continue today. These actions are being conducted under the Installation Restoration (IR) Program and are carried out by the Navy, with oversight provided by State and Federal environmental regulatory agencies.

This newsletter includes information about the steps in the site cleanup process, an update on the investigation and cleanup program, shows how you can become involved, and tells where to go for more information.

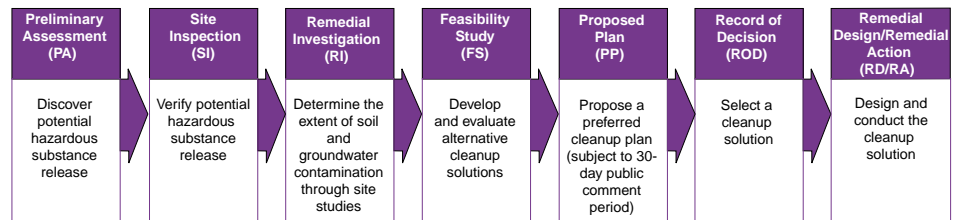
Please share this information with family members, friends, and representatives from any local organizations that may benefit. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can receive future fact sheets by filling out and returning the mailing coupon found on the back page. We also welcome your comments on this newsletter.

### STEPS IN THE INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Navy's IR Program for TI and YBI is a step-by-step regulatory process that directs the investigation and cleanup of hazardous substances. TI/YBI sites are currently in the Remedial Investigation phase. Some cleanup, for petroleum, lead-based paint, and asbestos, is managed under other separate programs. The IR Program follows the same steps as the federal Superfund program and provides two basic processes for cleaning up sites: the remedial action process and the removal action process.

#### *Remedial Action Process*

The graphic below depicts the remedial action process.



#### *Removal Action Process*

To speed cleanup along while long-term solutions are being developed, the Navy and regulatory agencies may conduct a removal action at a site. A removal action can be conducted anytime during the remedial action process and usually involves the straightforward approach of removing or containing hazardous substances. A removal action sometimes serves as the final action for a site. Non-time critical removal actions follow these steps:

- ✓ **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)** - Evaluate and propose removal actions (subject to a 30-day public comment period)
- ✓ **Action Memorandum (AM)** - Select the removal action
- ✓ **Removal Action (RA)** - Conduct the removal action

In some cases, the Navy may conduct a removal action earlier as a time-critical action. No EE/CA is prepared, and only an AM is necessary to document site activities.

### TI/YBI HISTORICAL FACT QUESTION

*What other name has been used for YBI?*

## INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP PROGRAM UPDATE

### *Pilot Testing and Cleanup Begins at Petroleum Sites*

The cleanup program for soil and groundwater contaminated by petroleum has accelerated with the installation of several pilot-scale systems and excavation of select areas of soil.

Dual-phase vacuum and soil vapor extraction systems have been installed at several sites on TI to remove petroleum products, such as gasoline and diesel fuel, from soil and groundwater. These systems were selected because they are extremely effective, create minimal disruptions to the surrounding areas, and can be readily combined with other technologies.

Dual-phase vacuum extraction uses a vacuum to remove contaminated groundwater, separate-phase petroleum products (gasoline or diesel that is floating on the surface of the groundwater), and petroleum vapors. The petroleum products are collected and disposed of off-site or sent to a recycling facility. Recovered water is disposed of at the TI wastewater treatment facility or at an approved, off-site facility.

Soil vapor extraction, known as SVE, is a relatively simple process that physically separates contaminants from soil. As the name suggests, SVE extracts contaminants from the soil in vapor form and is specifically designed to remove contaminants that vaporize easily, such as gasoline. By applying a vacuum through a system of underground wells, vapors are drawn to a treatment unit, where they are collected and treated. Air injection wells may be installed to increase the flow of air and improve the removal rate of contaminants.



**Soil excavation activities at Site 20, the former Auto Hobby Shop, located at the corner of 12th Street and Avenue B.**

Another method that is being used to cleanup petroleum-contaminated sites is excavation and removal of contaminated soil. Soils are excavated when the extent of contamination can be identified clearly and removal will arrest groundwater contamination.

In July, 3,000 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils were removed from the Site 20 former Auto Hobby Shop at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue B on TI. Additional excavations are planned at various sites on TI and YBI in the coming months.

### *Lead-based Paint*

Work is underway to remove a small quantity of lead contaminated soil at Building 66 on YBI. Work will begin soon to sample, and if necessary, remove lead contaminated soil at Building 240, also on YBI.

### *Site 12 Housing Area*

Follow-up fieldwork was conducted this summer in the housing area. Trenches were excavated in soil and were visually inspected for debris from past Navy operations. Debris could consist of pieces of scrap wood, metal and glass, as well as concrete, brick and asphalt from past structures and roads. Soil samples collected from the trenches were analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead. In some cases, additional trenching was conducted to confirm results and to further evaluate an area.

The Navy is planning to conduct a removal action at various locations within Site 12. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is being prepared to evaluate cleanup alternatives. The draft EE/CA will be provided to the public for review and comment.

### *Site 21*

In August, soil and groundwater samples were collected from the south side of Building 3. These samples have been sent to a laboratory to be analyzed for solvents. When the sample results are received, the Navy will determine if any cleanup actions are necessary.

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## **TI/YBI Historical Fact Answer**

*“Goat Island”. Although earlier named Yerba Buena (Good Herb) for the mint like herb (Micromeria chamissonis) that grew wild on the island, it also became known as Goat Island for the herd of goats brought to the island in the 1800s. In 1895 the U.S. Geographic Board officially changed the name to Goat Island, which it remained until 1931 when the name Yerba Buena was restored. (Yerba Buena was also the original name of the settlement that later became the City of San Francisco.)*

## RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The TI Restoration Advisory Board, referred to as the RAB, is a 21-member citizens advisory group that promotes dialogue between the community and the Navy regarding the TI/YBI environmental cleanup program.

In early June, Nathan Brennan, RAB Community Co-Chair, and Jim Sullivan, Navy Base Environmental Coordinator and Navy Co-Chair, attended a Navy RAB Training Workshop in Denver, Colorado. The 3-day workshop drew RAB members from around the country and focused on methods and training to increase the effectiveness of RABs at various naval installations throughout the United States. "The workshop was great, because it brought together members from different RABs ... We hope our participation in the workshop will make our advisory board more effective," Brennan said.

In June, RAB members enjoyed an early morning breakfast, followed by a tour of IR Program sites on TI and YBI. Jim Sullivan led the tour that lasted about 2-1/2 hours. New RAB member Rick Champion stated, "This really helped me understand the sites and issues out here... which will help the RAB fulfill its role." The tour was so successful, that the Navy is planning another site tour for RAB members and interested citizens in spring or summer of 2002.

The TI RAB meets the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Casa de la Vista, Building 271, located on Palm Avenue on TI. The meetings are open to the public, and all residents of TI are encouraged to attend.



**RAB members participated in a tour of IR Program sites at TI and YBI on June 9, 2001.**

## WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

In response to questions from the public about environmental cleanup activities at TI and YBI, the Navy has made several presentations to local groups.

If you would like to have a Navy representative meet with your community group to discuss TI and YBI cleanup activities, please call Steve Edde, at (415) 743-4704.

### WEBSITE

The Navy has initiated a web page for the TI RAB. You can find a listing of RAB meeting minutes, copies of fact sheets and newsletters, and other general information.

Please go to:

[www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/treasureisland.htm](http://www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/treasureisland.htm)

Information regarding other Navy RABs in California can be found at:

[www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/rab.htm](http://www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/rab.htm)

## INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The following information repositories are provided for the community to review current documents related to environmental cleanup activities at TI:

### **Navy Southwest Detachment**

410 Palm Avenue, Room 161, Building 1  
Treasure Island, San Francisco, California  
(415) 743-4704  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **San Francisco Public Library**

Government Publications Section  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, California  
(415) 557-4400  
Monday – 10a.m. to 6p.m.  
T/W/Th. - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Friday – noon to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday – noon to 5:00 p.m.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or concerns about the environmental activities taking place on TI and YBI, please call the Navy's Environmental Liaison, Steve Edde, at (415) 743-4704, or e-mail him at: [eddesl@efdswnavfac.navy.mil](mailto:eddesl@efdswnavfac.navy.mil).

**Mailing Coupon**

If you would like to be added to the TI/YBI mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

Steve Edde  
Navy Detachment  
410 Palm Avenue  
Room 161, Building 1  
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130-1802

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